

REMARKS

Claims 4-7 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 were previously canceled, and new claims 8-11 are added above. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), along with dependent claims 5-7, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,150,732 to Hoch et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,760,349 to Borchers et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 4 above reflects features described, for example, in paragraph 0015 of the substitute specification. It is respectfully submitted that the Hoch et al. and Borchers et al. patent disclosures, together, do not suggest an acoustically absorbent lining comprising, in combination with the other elements specified, a perforated cover plate to which all four horns as recited are attached at respective mouths thereof as claim 1 particularly defines.

As is acknowledged on page 2 of the Office Action, the Hoch et al. patent disclosure fails to teach any horn shaped sound guides or any perforated cover plate. It is apparent from the discussion of the Borchers et al. permeable layer 3 provided, *inter alia*, in column 3, lines 14-17 (“[p]ermeable cover layer 3 is located above the mouth of the horn....”), column 4, lines 33-34 (“[t]he permeable cover layer 3 must cover the mouth of the horn (area S_m) completely”), and column 5, lines 31-38 (“[t]he mouth of the horn is covered by a flow-permeable layer made of GFRP....The circular GFRP layer with a thickness of approximately 0.33 mm and a diameter of about 98 mm is glued to the mouth of the horn using a plastic adhesive”), moreover, that the Borchers et al. permeable layer 3 covers the mouth of *only one* horn 2. As noted above, therefore, the

collective Hoch et al. and Borchers et al. patent disclosures fail to suggest an acoustically absorbent lining comprising, in combination with the other elements specified, a perforated cover plate to which all four horns as recited are attached at respective mouths thereof as claim 1 defines.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as it appears above is patentable for reasons discussed. The rest of the claims remaining in and added to the application are dependent claims and should be patentable as well.

This application should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056226.58024US).

Respectfully submitted,

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